

This is a summary of

Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River Indian Reservations Comments 3.D.:

Commenters stated that the EPA EJ Analysis Study Area should be extended to address impacts to indigenous communities, specifically to the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe particularly because both Reservations have experienced prior contamination as a result of historic mining activities. Commenters stated that the EPA should evaluate impacts to the Cheyenne River because 1) the Dewey-Burdock Project Site is located in Cheyenne River watershed; 2) the Cheyenne River flows from the Project Site to the northwestern corner of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; 3) the Cheyenne River serves as the southern boundary of the Cheyenne Reservation before joining the Missouri River; and 4) the Cheyenne River Tribe's drinking water source is the Cheyenne River at the confluence Lake Oahe is the Tribe's drinking water source.

Commenters stated that the Black Hills are up-gradient of and serve as a headwaters zone for watersheds to the east. There are underground water channels or chambers in the Black Hills region that are potential hydraulic connections between Black Hills aquifers that could result in Dewey-Burdock site activities impacting the Ogallala and Arikaree aquifers and the injection wells with toxic chemicals or substances at the Project Site could harm water sources, wells and supplies that are used by humans within the Treaty Boundaries. One commenter expressed concern about impacts to Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Commenters stated the Dewey-Burdock Project Site is located in areas that affect aquifers, watersheds, and tributaries that are hydrologically connected to the waters that affect Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation lands and waters.

Commenters stated that the EJ analysis did not include no risk data concerning human health impact of the Dewey-Burdock Uranium Mine on the Cheyenne River Sioux people as it relates to the aquifers, watersheds, or tributaries that feed our Reservation. There is no analysis of impacts to fish and wildlife on our Reservation and in Lake Oahe, to which we have rights embodied in both Treaty and federal statute. There is also no analysis of impacts upon plants that we rely upon for food and medicine. The high radiation levels measured in the Cheyenne River demonstrate that past uranium mining has, and future uranium mining will, migrate out of the resources and will not be contained.